



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 11, 2007
Week Ending: June 10, 2007
CWP WA-CW2407

Rains Hampered and Slowed First Cutting of Alfalfa but a Real Boon to both Grain Farmers and Ranchers in Need of Summer Pasture

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.1. Significant rainfall was reported throughout the State, relieving stress on dry land wheat and increasing yield potential for all grain crops. Some alfalfa growers were caught with hay in the windrow and many fields ready to cut. Potatoes, canning peas, sweet and field corn crops were doing well with the moist conditions and bean planting continued in some areas weather permitting.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple sizing progressed nicely under last week's weather. Red Delicious apple diameter in the upper Yakima Valley was reported to be about 30 to 35 mm. Sweet cherry harvest expected to begin within the week in some of the early harvest sites. In other parts of the State, the strawberry harvest was underway and raspberries and blueberries were ripening. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific fruit set on rapidly growing plants. Farmers Markets were in full swing.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 4% poor, 21% fair, 71% good and 3% excellent. Significant rainfall help boost pasture production and some areas reported cattle being rotated on pasture according to schedule. While pasture in the upper elevation benefited greatly, in lower elevations the rains were too late as grass had reached the wilting point and pasture growth had stopped.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.1
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	8	20	70	2
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	19	77	3
Subsoil	13	23	63	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	24	72	2
Irrigation Water	0	1	96	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	93	1
Hay & Roughage	4	10	86	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	100	99	100	100
Spring Wheat Headed	37	21	32	37
Winter Wheat Headed	85	65	80	76
Barley Emerged	100	99	100	100
Barley Headed	38	21	28	28
Potatoes Planted	100	98	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	98	88	97	99
Corn Planted	99	98	98	98
Corn Emerged	95	83	88	84
Dry Edible Beans Planted	99	98	100	93
Proc. Green Peas Planted	97	96	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	75	65	78	79

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	29	49	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	4	63	31
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	13	41	39	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	2	15	70	13
Barley Dryland	2	8	40	48	2
Barley Irrigated	0	7	11	71	11
Potatoes	0	0	30	70	0
Corn	0	2	15	73	10
Dry Edible Beans	0	6	14	64	16

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: All crops were planted and farmers were working in the fields. Producers were baling hay which indicated drier than normal conditions.

Grays Harbor: Heavy rain showers at the end of the week were welcomed by both cannery pea and sweet corn growers. Cool temperatures with highs ranging only in the 60's slowed both germination and growth of sweet corn. Forage grasses were flattened in hayfields due to the rain. Dairy producers continued pumping lagoons and applying liquid manure to harvested forage fields. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific fruit set on rapidly growing plants. Cut-flower peony growers reported the cool temperatures were extending bloom time. Home gardeners continued battling slugs and weeds.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Crop farmers were thankful for the half inch of rain that fell over the weekend. Alfalfa growers, however, were hoping for sunshine as the hay crop was ready for cutting.

Mason: The area experienced dry, cool, and windy conditions. The weather broke on Saturday with .5 inches precipitation which extended into Sunday. The area really needed the rain as fields were getting hard and dry from the steady wind. Pastures looked good and were being rotated on schedule.

Mason (2nd Report): With May bringing just about an inch of rain for the entire month, Saturday's 2.25 inch rainstorm was a welcome development. Field crops and pastures alike were suffering from drought-like conditions and needed the precipitation. Farmers Markets were in full swing and market farmers were finally getting to harvest their vegetable crops, which was much later this season than normal. Most folks have planted the majority of their summer crops; tomatoes, peppers, squash, etc; with the exception of some farmers in the Skokomish Valley who were just now getting fields tilled

Pierce/S. King: The recent rains helped a lot with the growing conditions in the area. No unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: Weather was mild and sunny the first part of the week. From Thursday through Sunday the area had intermittent rain.

Snohomish/North King: Spring rains made it difficult to work in the field. Temperatures were in the low 60's throughout week.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): It rained occasionally throughout the week. Lucky farmers got their hay in before it got wet. Manure spreading continued. Most crops were emerged and were growing well. Strawberry harvest was underway and raspberries and blueberries were ripening. Apples were growing well. Unsprayed trees showed damage from scab.

Thurston: Producers were cutting hay early hoping to get a second cutting. The rain will give the newly cut fields a boost.

Thurston (2nd Report): Dry soil conditions were quickly alleviated by heavy rain showers. Turfgrass growers were able to temporarily stop irrigating fields. Unseasonably cool temperatures slowed the growth of most crops. Christmas tree growers were forced to delay pesticide applications for aphid control due to the rain. Hay harvest came to a screeching halt!

Whatcom: No irrigation was required this past week. Four out of the seven days were rainy. Rain varied from light to heavy and temperatures were cooler. The average temperature was approximately 55 degrees. Corn and potato crops were doing well under these conditions, however the strawberries will need more sun and dry weather for a good harvest.

Central

Benton: County wide rains received last week, Monday evening June 4, and continuing throughout the day on June 5, provided between .7 and 1.0 inches of rain. The heaviest rains occurred in the western parts of the county and decreased slightly towards eastern portions. The drylanders in wheat country call this a 'million dollar rain.'

Franklin: Weather was fairly normal with temperatures coming down from the prior week. There were two showers at the beginning and end of last week, one bringing over an inch of rain in what appeared to be the west half of the county (more of the irrigated acreage). The south end of the dryland portion of the county received a half inch and more in places while the north received less (which is unusual). Nearly all crops in the county benefited (both irrigated and nonirrigated) with the exception of timothy hay which was down (in the windrow). There were reports of standing timothy and wheat in places beat down by the rain, though limited acreage. With rains came typical breezy weather which should have been good for any of the most mature cherries (no splits reported).

Grant: First cutting alfalfa was about 70 percent complete, with most hay having been rained on. Heavy rains received in the northern part of the county have helped moisture conditions in the dryland wheat regions. Bean planting continued.

Kittitas: Lack of spring moisture caught up with rangeland pastures. Plants that would normally still be growing had reached the wilting point and were done for the year. Wild temperature changes and unpredictable showers had hay growers waiting to start first cutting timothy, but many fields were ready.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 21 degrees above normal to 6 degrees below normal, with .11 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Apple sizing progressed nicely under last week's weather. Red Delicious apple diameter in the upper Yakima Valley averaged about 30 to 35 mm. Sweet cherry harvest was anticipated within the week in some of the earlier sites in the area.

Eastern

Asotin: Cooler temperatures and some rainfall were beneficial to the winter wheat crop in the higher elevations. Pastures and crops in the lower elevations had been hit hard by below average rainfall this spring and record high temperatures in early June.

Asotin/Garfield: Much needed rain came last week and provided relief to the dry weather. However, crop damage had already occurred in the lower elevations especially in Asotin County. The rain will benefit rangeland in the upper elevations, but was too late to provide any relief in areas below 2,500 feet elevation.

Ferry: The area received some scattered rain showers, but was still short on moisture

Garfield: Cold, windy, showery weather helped wheat. The area received .75 of an inch of precipitation since last report.

Lincoln: A thunderstorm brought welcomed rain for crops and pasture in need of it. However, the storm also resulted in some major ditches and erosion to fields in certain areas of the county and especially to some newly seeded CRP grass and crops. Hail was additionally reported by producers where it had the effect of shredding wheat that had just headed out.

Pend Orielle: The temperature high was 78 degrees; the low was 35 degrees, with precipitation received at .60 inches. Rain over the week added needed moisture to the new growth, however the cool weather slowed growth more than expected. Pastures maintained good growth and were maintaining herds. Herbicide spraying was delayed due to rains as well as the application of fertilizer.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: A cooler week of weather helped to make crops look better and to use what moisture was received. Rainfall happened across both counties, but the amount varied tremendously. Reports of almost 1.5 inches occurred out west and the rest of us got about .33 of an inch of rain. Not many hay producers were cutting hay due to the cool weather. Once the sun starts to shine for more than a day or two the swathers will hit the fields. There were reports of lack of fruit set on the cherry trees up on Green Bluff. Timothy and oats for hay needed some additional moisture in Pend Oreille County

Stevens: Heavy rain fell during the first part of the week and brightened the crop and forage picture. A few alfalfa producers were caught with hay in the windrow when the storm cut loose. Grain and pasture crops looked much better.

Walla Walla: The entire area received rain this past week. Reports indicated between .70 to 1.25 inches throughout Columbia and Walla Walla County. Temperatures were cooler and breezy.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Welcome rain and cooler weather helped the crops. Most first cutting was out of the field. Some hay was rained on a little. Range pastures improved.

Whitman: More rainfall helped bring relief to crop conditions. Rain slowed some field activities; however, overall it was very welcomed and will help with yield potential.

**For the Week Ending
June 10, 2007**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	PCT		DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN					DFN	NORMAL	
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	42	67	56	-2	43	-9	2	-5	1.05	+0.62	6	33.90	+1.60	105	153
Everett	48	68	55	-4	39	-19	3	-4	0.66	+0.14	5	30.61	-1.92	94	151
Hoquiam	45	65	57	+1	52	+7	1	+1	0.82	+0.26	5	67.13	+3.28	105	170
Kelso	45	70	58	+0	59	+0	5	-7	0.50	-0.06	4	38.71	-4.05	91	128
Olympia	44	68	57	-1	50	-1	2	-5	0.37	-0.05	4	53.97	+6.52	114	153
Seattle Tacoma	48	69	58	-2	58	-8	5	-6	0.39	-0.02	6	42.27	+7.92	123	145
Shelton	44	70	56	-4	46	-20	0	-14	0.69	+0.25	3	73.39	+11.80	119	159
Tacoma WA AP	42	68	57	-3	53	-13	4	-8	0.48	+0.01	3	38.35	+1.39	104	142
Vancouver WA	45	75	60	+1	71	+6	12	-2	1.00	+0.57	4	36.87	-1.39	96	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	78	61	+0	77	+4	15	-5	0.06	-0.08	2	7.86	-0.09	99	75
Omak AP	41	78	63	+4	89	+22	24	+6	1.68	+1.33	2	9.27	-3.22	74	57
Stampede Pass	33	80	50	+4	28	+19	8	+8	1.12	+0.37	6	94.39	+18.57	124	166
Wenatchee	49	78	63	-2	95	-7	28	-10	0.00	-0.14	0	8.53	+1.26	117	49
Yakima AP	40	84	62	-2	84	-4	23	-5	0.11	-0.03	3	6.81	-0.27	96	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	96	63	+4	89	+22	28	+10	0.65	+0.23	3	13.74	-4.60	75	97
Deer Park	41	79	57	-3	54	-12	9	-7	0.99	+0.67	5	17.20	+1.04	106	108
Republic	43	79	59	+3	65	+18	11	+2	1.01	+0.63	3	12.93	+0.24	102	71
Spokane AP	42	81	59	-2	65	-3	16	-2	0.44	+0.09	2	14.08	-0.26	98	95
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	47	85	64	-3	97	-16	30	-16	0.31	+0.17	3	6.82	+0.44	107	64
Moses Lake	46	86	64	-4	97	-16	30	-16	0.62	+0.48	2	5.98	-0.40	94	61
Quincy	46	94	64	-1	97	+0	31	-4	0.32	+0.18	1	7.51	+0.58	108	48
Ritzville	43	97	63	+4	92	+21	36	+18	0.56	+0.40	3	10.16	+0.08	101	81
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	89	66	-4	113	-19	45	-17	0.32	+0.25	1	4.55	-1.26	78	47
Pasco	49	89	67	-1	118	-1	48	-4	0.69	+0.57	2	7.26	+0.51	108	69
Pullman	42	78	57	-1	50	-3	11	-1	0.75	+0.40	2	16.03	-2.49	87	101
Walla Walla Rgn	48	82	64	-2	97	-9	31	-10	1.32	+1.04	2	17.33	-0.18	99	88
Whitman Mission	43	98	64	+2	101	+8	41	+10	1.09	+0.88	3	12.65	+0.51	104	94
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	47	101	67	+3	119	+19	57	+21	0.48	+0.14	2	8.35	-1.87	82	78

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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